March GENERAL NEWS

The Earl of Essex's great commission for Ireland was despatched on the 1 2th and he hath all his demands, the Queen showing herself \ery gracious and willing to content him , only the clause of liberty to return at pleasure is not inserted in the patent but must pass under the Broad Seal itself He gives out that he will be gone the I9th of this month and all things are hasted accordingly There be fourscore horse laid at every post tw.ixt London and Chester, and so to Holyhead for him and his followers, and as many by way of Bristol The Earls of Southampton and Rutland (who hath lately married the Countess of Essex's daughter by Sir Philip Sidney), and the Lords Grey, Audley and Cromwell do accompany him and Sir Christopher Blount is named Marshal of Ireland, though the Queen had a good meaning to Sir Harry Brounker The whole force is said to be 16,000 foot and 1,400 horse, yet when they come to the poll they may fall far short

March THE PRISONERS IN THE TOWER

Of late the liberty of access unto such persons as are not close prisoners in the Tower hath been abused insomuch that some repair thither at undue seasons and sometimes stay after the gates be shut Hereafter none shall be permitted to stay with any prisoner in the Tower either in his chamber or in any retired place there at the time of dinner, or supper, or divine services unless it be in the presence of the Governor Nor shall any other than a preacher, physician, apothecary or chirurgeon be permitted to repair to the prisoners save between the hours of 8 and 1 1 of the clock in the forenoon, and between I and 4 of the clock in the afternoon

March THE SCOTTISH PLEDGES' DESPERATION

Those Scots that are kept as pledges in the castle at York of late made a very desperate attempt to escape, but one of the Council having some foreknowledge conferred with the gaoler and set one Canby (that was in prison about the killing of a man) to spy upon the Scots Hereby their plot was laid open so that when they brake forth from a window at nine o'clock at night and leapt to the ground, the gaoler with his men was ready for them and pursued them, some into the water at the Castle dyke